

**Claims:**

1           1. A system for sending out-of-band (OOB) service  
2 information from a service provider, the system comprising:  
3           a point of deployment module which includes,  
4                 a processor for processing the OOB service  
5 information from a service provider, constructing OOB  
6 transport stream (TS) packets using the OOB service  
7 information and sending the OOB TS packets to a set-top box  
8 using a transport stream channel; and

9           wherein the set-top box includes a processor for  
10 processing the OOB TS packets.

1           2. The system of claim 1, wherein the point of  
2 deployment module further includes a buffer for storing the  
3 OOB TS packets.

1           3. The System of claim 2, wherein the point of  
2 deployment module sends the OOB TS packets between two  
3 consecutive transport stream packets of an original in-  
4 bound transport stream.

1           4. A method of sending out-of-band (OOB) service  
2 information from a service provider between a data module a  
3 host device, the method comprising the steps of:

4           (a) receiving the out-of-band service information at  
5 the data module;

6           (b) constructing OOB transport stream (TS) packets

7 using the OOB service information;  
8 (c) inserting the OOB TS packets into a gap between  
9 two consecutive TS packets of the original TS packets; and  
10 (d) receiving the OOB TS packets at the host device.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the data module is  
2 a point of deployment module.

1 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the host is a set-  
2 top box.

1 7. A data module for use with a host device, the data  
2 module comprising:

3 a processor for processing out-of-band (OOB) service  
4 information, constructing OOB transport stream (TS) packets  
5 using the OOB service information and sending the OOB TS  
6 packets to a host device using a transport stream channel.

1 8. The data module of claim 7, further including a  
2 buffer for storing the OOB TS packets.

1 9. The data module of claim 8, wherein the data module  
2 sends the OOB TS packets between two consecutive transport  
3 stream packets of an original in-bound transport stream.

1 10. The data module of claim 7, wherein the data  
2 module is selected from the group consisting of a point of  
3 deployment module, wireless data interface appliance,  
4 smartcard, personal computer or internet interface  
5 appliance.

